THE
INTERTIDAL
ZONE
STARRING
ROCKY-THE-SHRIMP
BY
STEPHEN
HILLENBURG

A

SCIENCE

ADVENTURE

COMIC

BY

STEPHEN HILLENBURG

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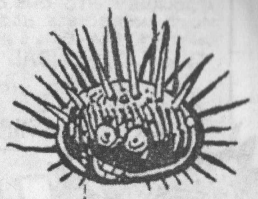
SEA STAR


SEA URCHIN

SEA CUCUMBER

TIDEPOOL SCULPIN

LIMPET

SHORE CRAB

HERMIT CRAB

BARNACLE

SEA ANEMONE

WORM

MUSSEL

YOU ARE ABOUT TO EMBARK ON A JOURNEY INTO ONE OF THE MOST INCREDIBLE ECOSYSTEMS ON THIS PLANET... THE INTERTIDAL ZONE! NOW MEET THE HOST OF OUR SHOW... ROCKY-THE-SHRIMP!!!

BOB THE SPONGE

HEERRRES ROCKY!

YOU SAID IT BOB! THIS PLACE IS DIVERSE. IT HAS MORE VARIETY THAN A SHARK HAS TEETH!!

THERE ARE MILLIONS OF BIZARRE CREATURES THAT INHABIT THE TIDEPOOLS SURROUNDING ME.

TIDES CAUSE THE OCEANS TO RISE AND FALL EACH DAY. WHEN THE WATER LEVEL DROPS AT LOW TIDE, LIFE SUPPORTING POOLS ARE LEFT BEHIND.

WHAT ARE TIDES?! COME JOIN MY TIDEPOOL FRIENDS AND ME WHILE WE WATCH THE MYSTERIOUS TIDES!!

INTERTIDAL THEATER

EXIT

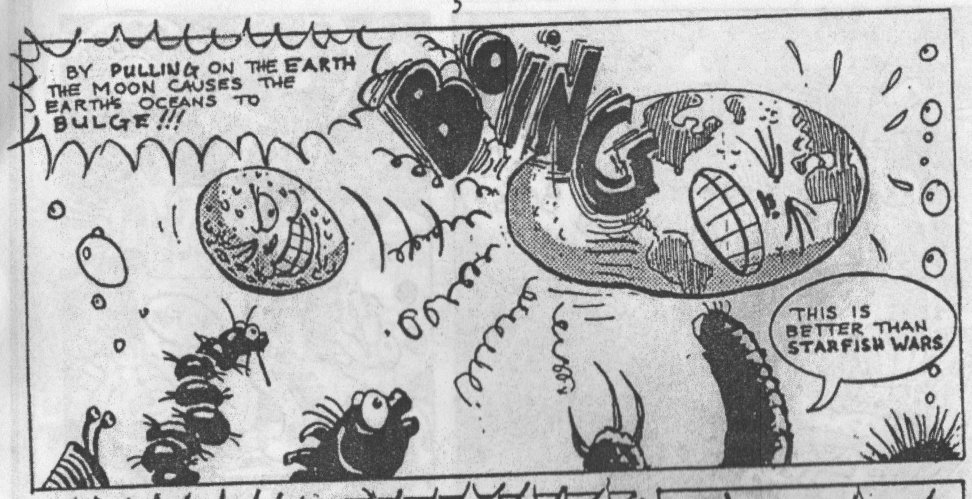
ROLL IT BOYS!

CLICK

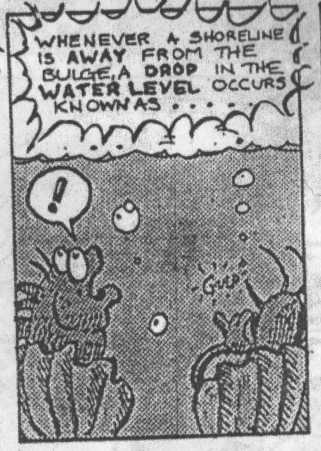
GO FISH

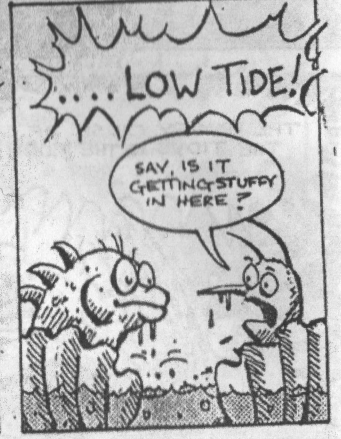
THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF THE TIDES IS THE MOON!

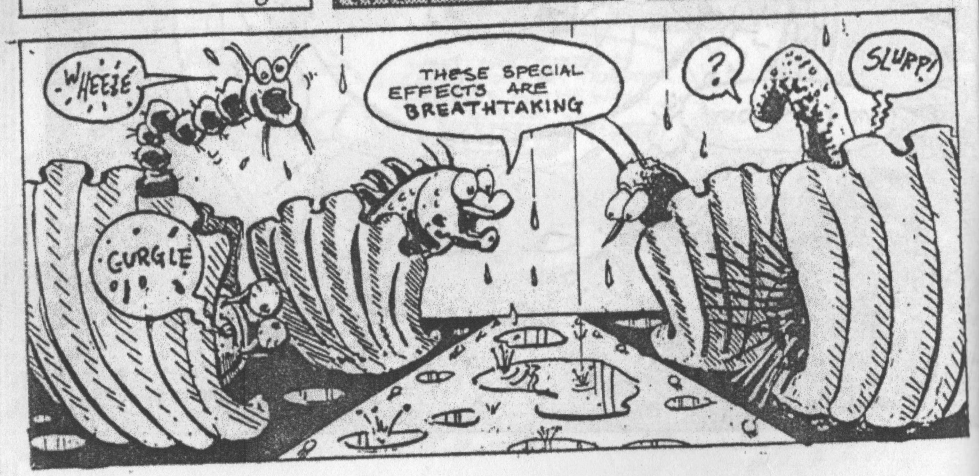
WHY THAT'S LOONY!


BY PULLING ON THE EARTH THE MOON CAUSES THE EARTH'S OCEANS TO BULGE!!!
BOING
THIS IS BETTER THAN STARFISH WARS

AS THE EARTH ROTATES SHORELINES MOVE IN AND OUT OF THE BULGE.


WHENEVER A SHORELINE IS AWAY FROM THE BULGE, A DROP IN THE WATER LEVEL OCCURS KNOWN AS . . .
!
GULP

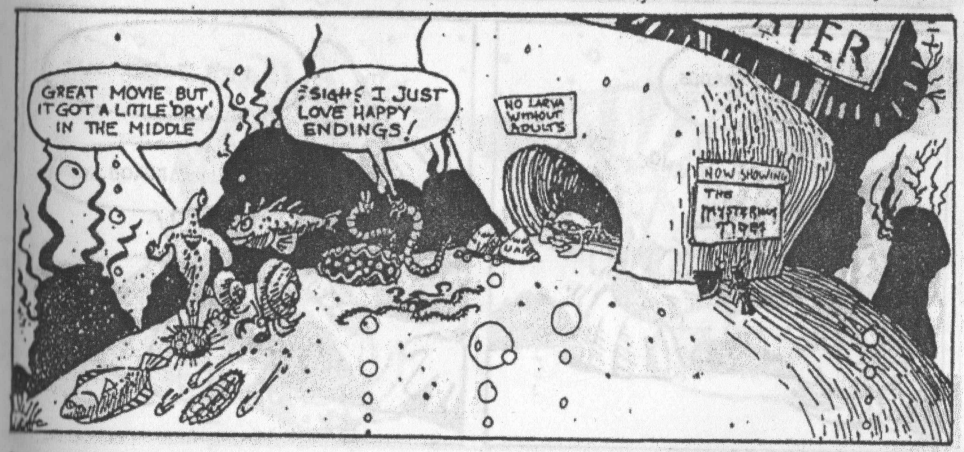

. . . . LOW TIDE!
SAY, IS IT GETTING STUFFY IN HERE?

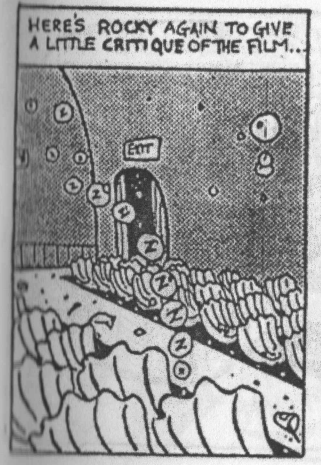

WHEEZE
GURGLE
THESE SPECIAL EFFECTS ARE BREATHTAKING
?
SLURP!

SHORELINES NEAR THE BULGE EXPERIENCE A RISE IN WATER LEVEL, THIS IS KNOWN AS . . .
LOOK! IT'S RISING

I LIKE THIS PART!

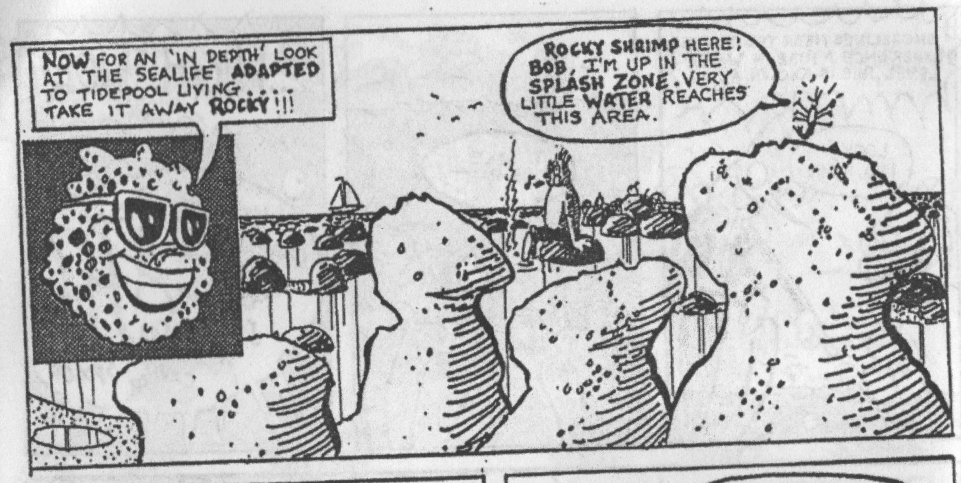
. . HIGH TIDE!
CLAP
CLAP
WHEEEE
CLAP
YEAH!
SNAP
KNOCK
POP
CRACK
CRUNCH
SPOOGE


GREAT MOVIE, BUT IT GOT A LITTLE 'DRY' IN THE MIDDLE
SIGH! I JUST LOVE HAPPY ENDINGS!
NO LARVA WITHOUT ADULTS
NOW SHOWING THE MYSTERIOUS TIDE

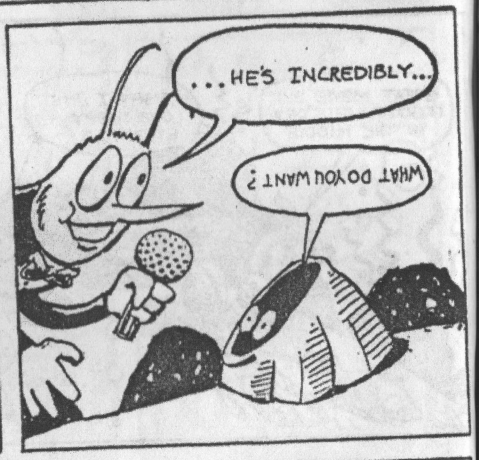

HERE'S ROCKY AGAIN TO GIVE A LITTLE CRITIQUE OF THE FILM...
EXIT

ER... AHEM!! ROCK?!!
SNORT

. . . . ROCKY!!!!
WUH?
OH HEY BOB . . . THUMBS UP!
ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT!


NOW FOR AN 'IN DEPTH' LOOK AT THE SEALIFE ADAPTED TO TIDEPOOL LIVING.... TAKE IT AWAY ROCKY!!!
ROCKY SHRIMP HERE! BOB, I'M UP IN THE SPLASH ZONE. VERY LITTLE WATER REACHES THIS AREA.

OUR FIRST GUEST IS MR. BARNACLE. HE'S FABULOUS, HE'S STUNNING, AND...
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

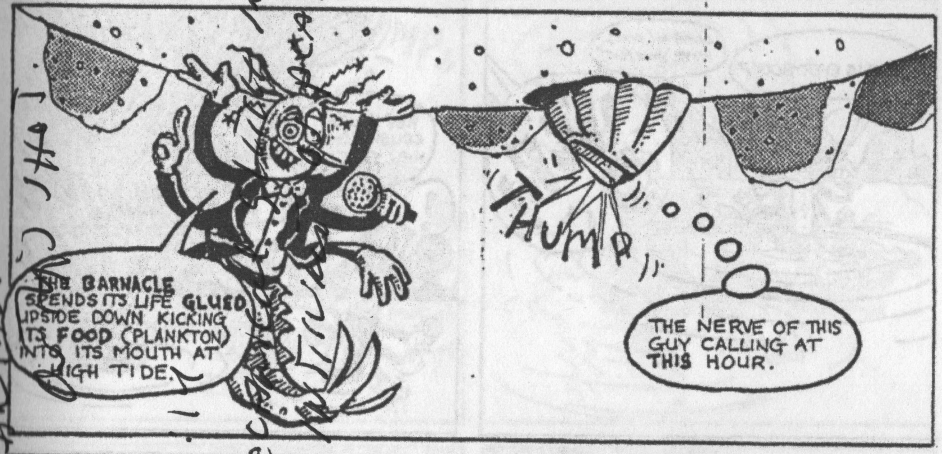

...HE'S INCREDIBLY...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

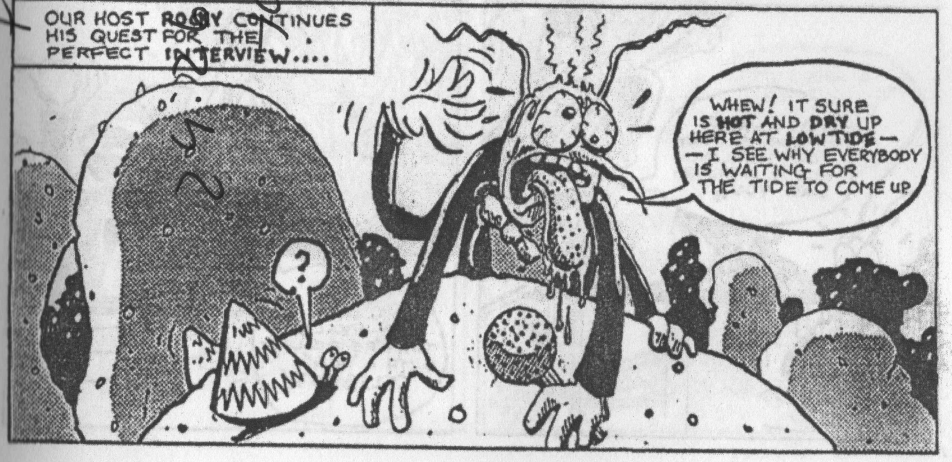
UH... INCREDIBLY?...
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD YOU'RE SAYING!!!

YES...WELL INCREDIBLY, UH.. INCREDIBLY, INCREDIBLY...
LISTEN, SONNY, I DON'T NEED ANY COOKIES!!!

UPSIDE DOWN!

(FLIP)
THEY'LL DO ANYTHING TO SELL SOMETHING THESE DAYS.
DONG


THE BARNACLE SPENDS ITS LIFE GLUED UPSIDE DOWN KICKING ITS FOOD (PLANKTON) INTO ITS MOUTH AT HIGH TIDE.
THUMP
THE NERVE OF THIS GUY CALLING AT THIS HOUR.


OUR HOST ROCKY CONTINUES HIS QUEST FOR THE PERFECT INTERVIEW....
?
WHEW! IT SURE IS HOT AND DRY UP HERE AT LOW TIDE— —I SEE WHY EVERYBODY IS WAITING FOR THE TIDE TO COME UP.

WHERE YOU HEADED?
TO GREENER, SCUMMIER, PASTURES.
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP

IT'S WAY TOO CROWDED DOWN THERE. EVERYONE WANTS AN OCEAN VIEW.
CROWDS?! TIME FOR THIS SHOW HOST TO GO INTO ACTION!
CHOMP
MUNCH
MUNCH

WHERE IS EVERYBODY?
COME ON ETHEL MOVE YOUR FOOT!
OUCH!

HEY YOU'RE CRUSHING MY NEW THREADS!
MOVE OVER WILL YOU!!

GO AWAY!!! THERE ISN'T ANY ROOM HERE, EVEN FOR A SHRIMP LIKE YOU!!

WAIT UNTIL THEY REALIZE THEY'RE DEALING WITH A 'BIG' CELEBRITY!

I'M NOT HERE TO SETTLE, I'M ROCKY-THE-SHRIMP A MEGA-STAR!

A SEA STAR EEEE EEEEEEEEEEEEK!

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
WHY DIDN'T I BECOME A GARBAGEMAN LIKE MOTHER SUGGESTED?

LOOK, I MEAN'T MOVIE STAR, NOT SEA STAR.

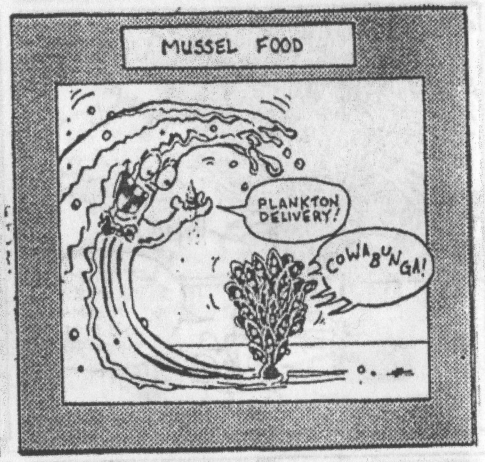
SORRY ROCKY, EVEN THE MENTION OF THE WORDS SEA STAR MAKES US NERVOUS

THEY COME UP AT HIGH TIDE AND DINE, AND WE ARE THE MAIN COURSE !!!
OLD JOE SURFER UP IN HIS PRIME

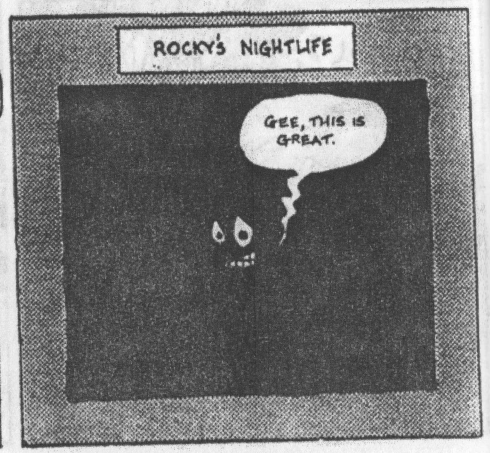
WHY NOT GIVE UP YOUR ATTACHED LIFESTYLE AND BECOME A MOBILE ANIMAL LIKE ME?

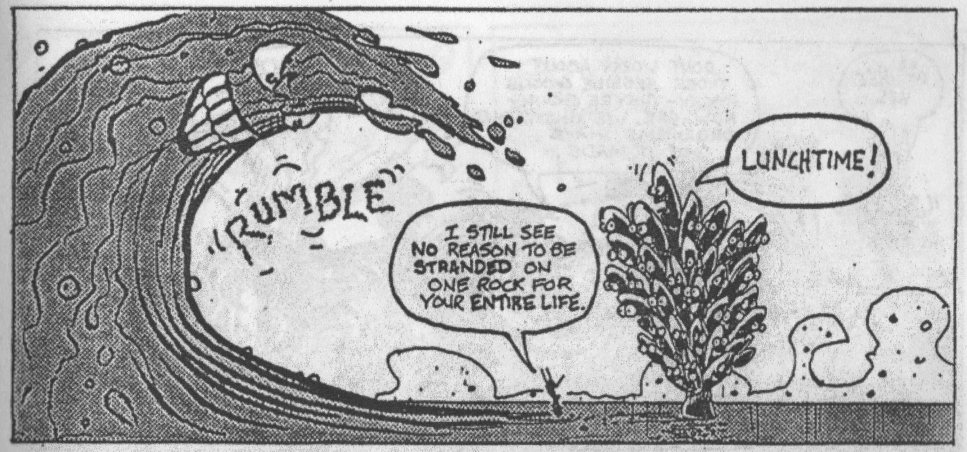
NO WAY!!

LIVE TO SURF, SURF TO LIVE!
...OXYGEN AND MUNCHIES BROUGHT RIGHT TO US!!!


MUSSEL FOOD
PLANKTON DELIVERY!
COWABUNGA!

MOBILE CREATURES HAVE THE FREEDOM TO EAT WHAT THEY WANT, FLEE FROM PREDATORS, TRAVEL, ...
... AND I EVEN GET TO ENJOY THE NIGHTLIFE.


ROCKY'S NIGHTLIFE
GEE, THIS IS GREAT.


RUMBLE
I STILL SEE NO REASON TO BE STRANDED ON ONE ROCK FOR YOUR ENTIRE LIFE.
LUNCHTIME!

CRASH
BLUBBA BLUBBA BLOOB!

HE ATE HIS!!
HA HA HA HA HA HEE HEE HOO HOO
THOSE ROCKHEADS.

HEE HEE HEE
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THOSE SESSILE GOONS ROCKY-THEY'RE GOING NOWHERE. WE UNATTACHED ORGANISMS HAVE GOT IT MADE.
UMF!
PINK PINK PINK

LETS GO FIND AN OLD, RIPE, CRUSTY FISH HEAD FOR LUNCH!

LUNCH ?!!! I FORGOT I HAVE A LUNCH INTERVIEW WITH A BEAUTIFUL SEA ANEMONE!
I'LL SMELL YOU LATER!
POP!

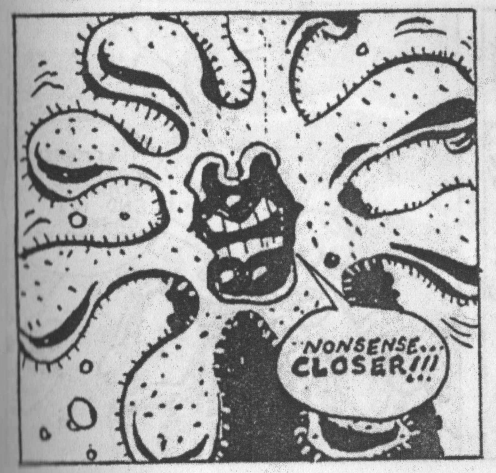
SPLASH
THE SEDUCTIVE SEA ANEMONE — SO MANY ANIMALS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY ITS BEAUTY!

BUT NOT THIS SHRIMP - I'M NOT SO EASILY FOOLED!

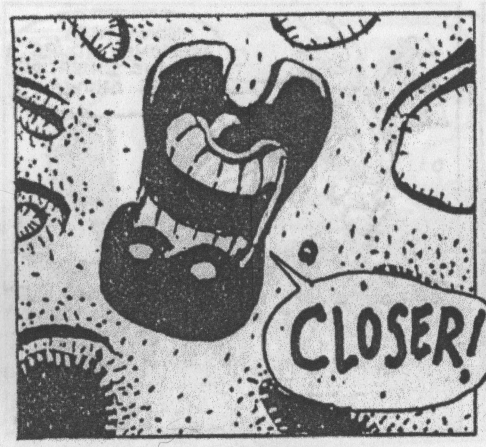
MADAME SEA ANEMONE! YOU'RE ON THE INTERTIDAL ZONE SHOW!

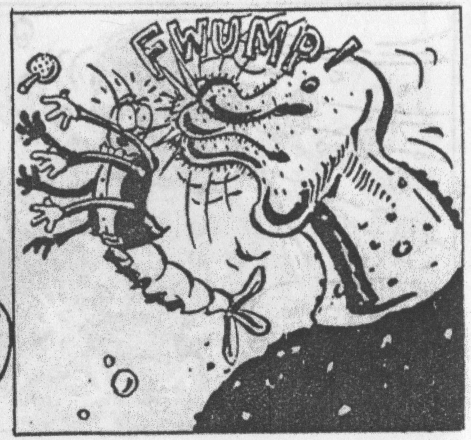
AHH... COME CLOSE DARLING!

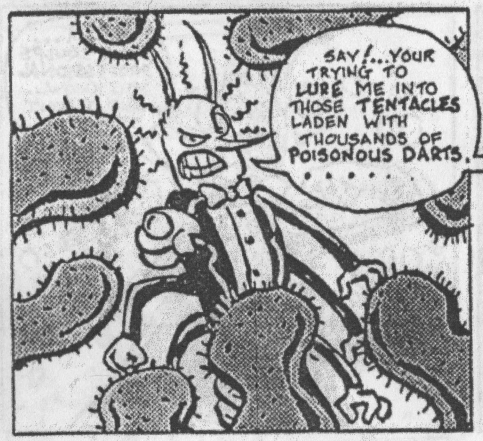
WELL A... I'M A GULPS PROFESSIONAL YOU KNOW... AND I DON'T THINK....

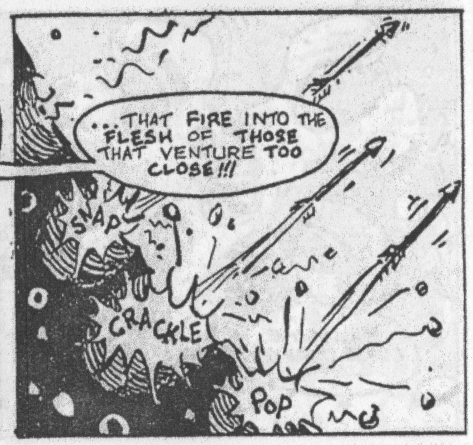

NONSENSE... CLOSER!!!

I SUPPOSE IT WOULDN'T DO ANY HARM

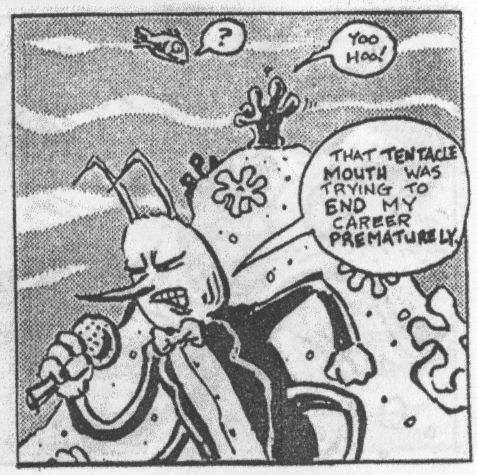

CLOSER!


FWUMP!

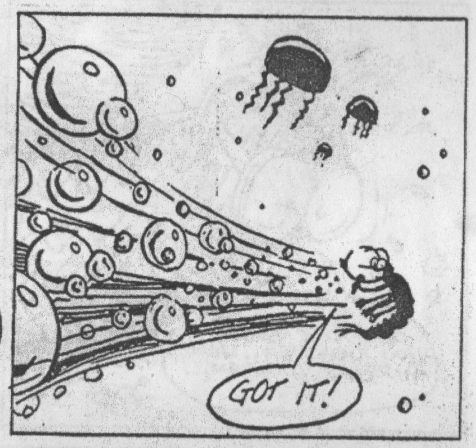

SAY!...YOUR TRYING TO LURE ME INTO THOSE TENTACLES LADEN WITH THOUSANDS OF POISONOUS DARTS.....

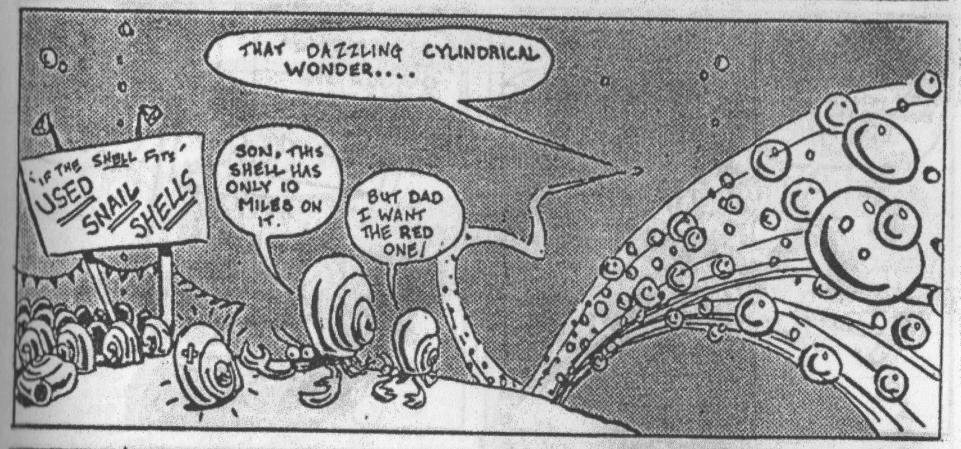

...THAT FIRE INTO THE FLESH OF THOSE THAT VENTURE TOO CLOSE!!!
SNAP
CRACKLE
POP

I MAY HAVE A 'BONEHEAD' BUT I'M WISE TO YOUR TRICKS!
CLICK
RATS!

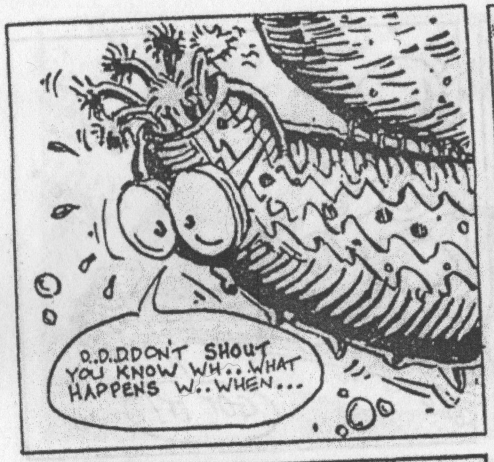

?
YOO HOO!
THAT TENTACLE MOUTH WAS TRYING TO END MY CAREER PREMATURELY.

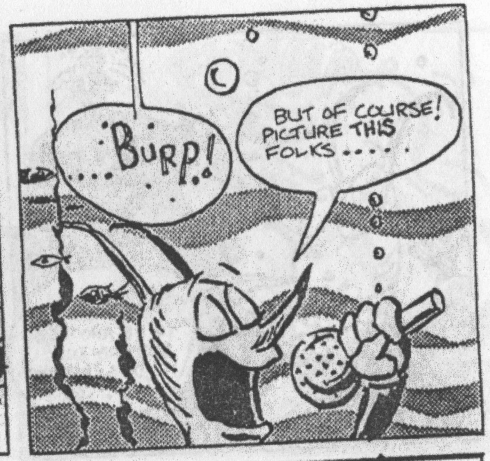
HMMM.... THERE'S GOT TO BE ANOTHER EXCITING AND EXOTIC CREATURE.....


GOT IT!


THAT DAZZLING CYLINDRICAL WONDER....
'IF THE SHELL FITS' USED SNAIL SHELLS
SON, THIS SHELL HAS ONLY 10 MILES ON IT.
BUT DAD I WANT THE RED ONE!

...THE SEA CUCUMBER!


D..D..DDON'T SHOUT YOU KNOW WH..WHAT HAPPENS W..WHEN...


...BURP!
BUT OF COURSE! PICTURE THIS FOLKS.....

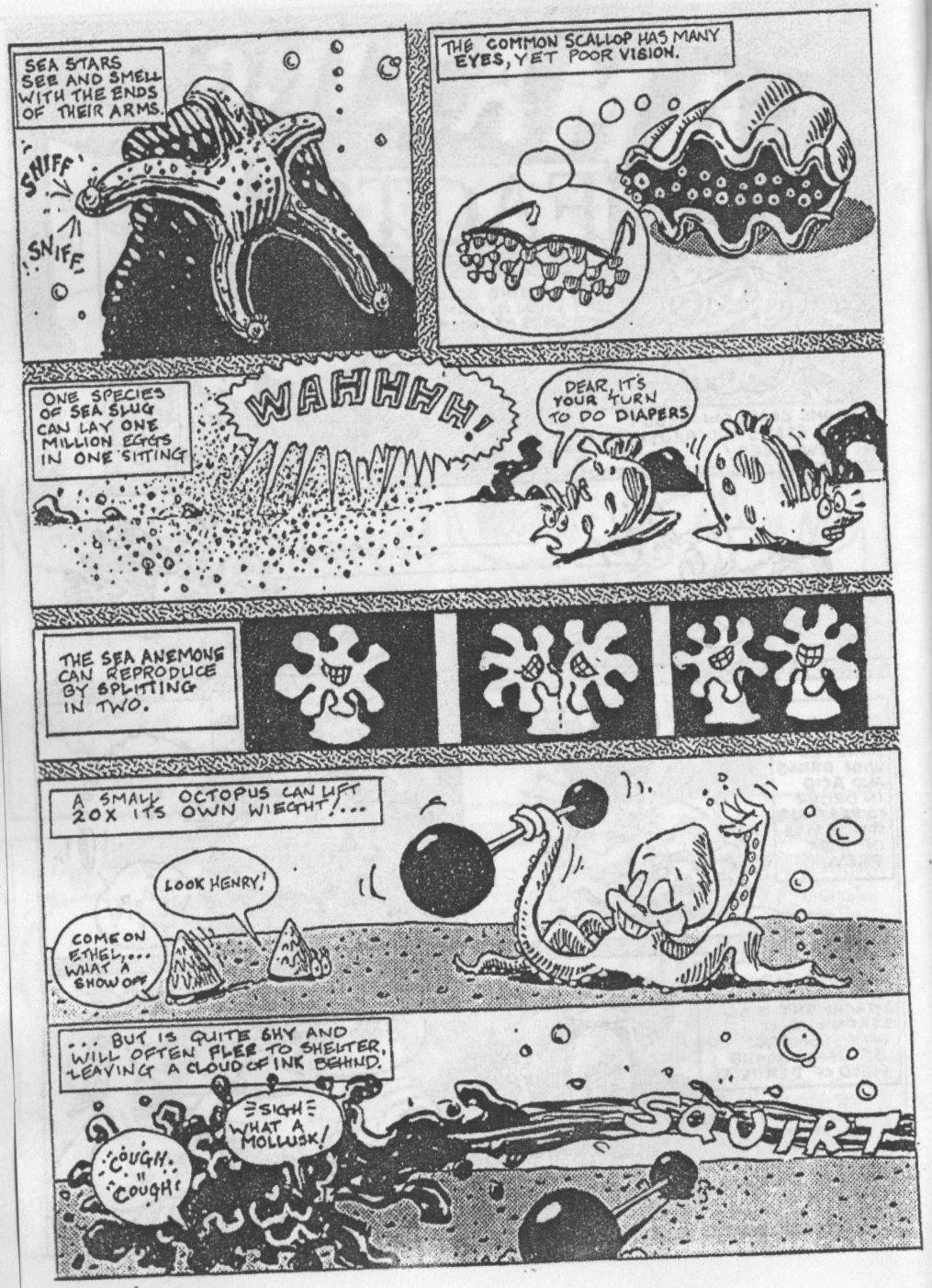
THE SEA CUCUMBER IS PURSUED BY A VICIOUS PREDATOR WITH GNASHING, BLOODSTAINED, TEETH!!!
URP! PLEASE!!!

THE PREDATOR INTENDS TO DEVOUR THE CUKE LIKE A BALL PARK FRANK!!!
BURP. OH NO!

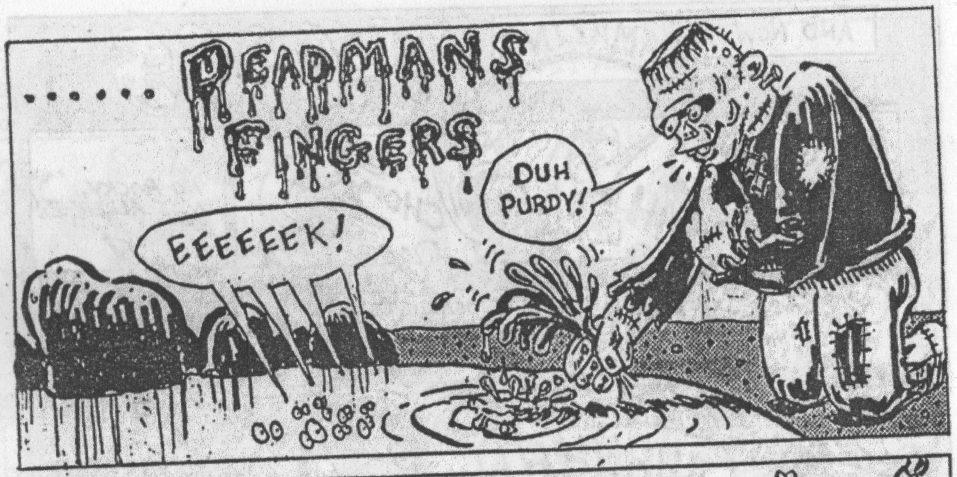
AND THEN!!!
PHLOP

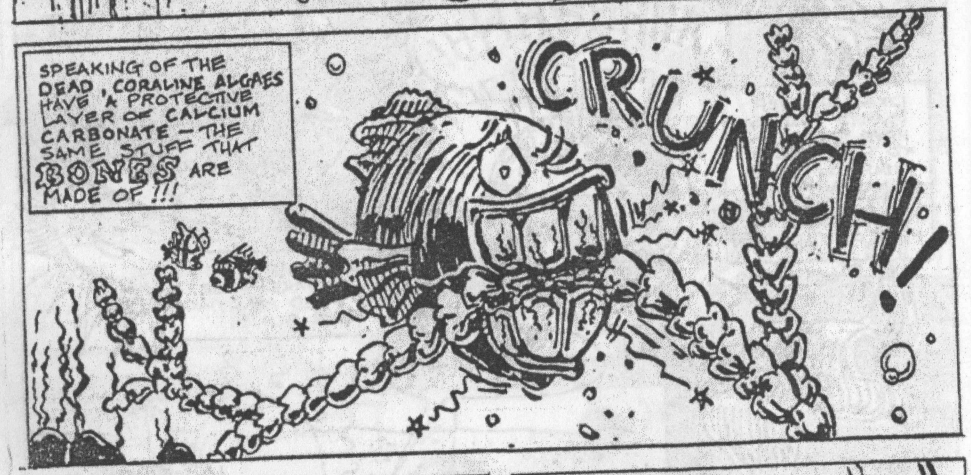
...THE SEA CUCUMBER EJECTS ITS GUTS AND KEEPS THE PREDATOR AT BAY!
WHEW!
THIS IS ROCKY-THE SHRIMP WITH ANOTHER GUT WRENCHING INTERVIEW. NOW BACK TO BOB WITH...

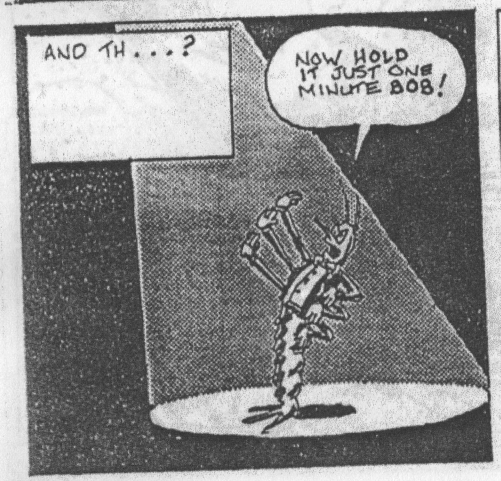
AMAZING FACTS
MOLTING OCCURS WHEN AN ANIMAL SHEDS ITS EXOSKELETON IN ORDER TO GROW.
SOME CRABS CAN 'SHOOT' OFF CLAWS AND REGENERATE NEW ONES!
DO YOU MIND?!! I'M MOLTING!
ROCKY
POP
PINK
OOB! HE GOB ME!
CERTAIN SNAILS ARE EQUIPPED WITH DRILLS AND ACID IN ORDER TO PERFORATE THE SHELLS OF THIER PREY.
BORING CLAMS USE THEIR SHELLS TO DRILL THROUGH SOLID ROCK.
WHOOPS!
THE GLUE BARNACLES USE FOR PERMANENT ATTACHMENT IS SO STRONG THAT IT MAY SOMEDAY BE USED IN THE FIELD OF DENTISTRY.
SUPER GLUE
NOW THATS GOOD NEWTHS!


SEA STARS SEE AND SMELL WITH THE ENDS OF THEIR ARMS.
SNIFF
SNIFF
THE COMMON SCALLOP HAS MANY EYES, YET POOR VISION.
ONE SPECIES OF SEA SLUG CAN LAY ONE MILLION EGGS IN ONE SITTING
WAHHHH!
DEAR, IT'S YOUR TURN TO DO DIAPERS
THE SEA ANEMONE CAN REPRODUCE BY SPLITTING IN TWO.
A SMALL OCTOPUS CAN LIFT 20X ITS OWN WEIGHT...
LOOK HENRY!
COME ON ETHEL... WHAT A SHOW OFF
... BUT IS QUITE SHY AND WILL OFTEN FLEE TO SHELTER, LEAVING A CLOUD OF INK BEHIND.
SQUIRT
SIGH WHAT A MOLLUSK!
COUGH COUGH!

AND NOW... AMAZING ALGAES
AH AH AH AH CHOO
NO ROCKY NOT ALLERGIES!
ALGAES... ARE 'SEAWEEDS'. THEY RANGE IN SIZE FROM TINY ONE CELLED DRIFTERS (PHYTOPLANKTON) TO MULTICELLULAR GIANTS REACHING LENGTHS OF 100 FEET.
SNIFF
HUH?
AHHHHHHH!
LIKE ALL OTHER PLANTS ALGAES HAVE THE ABILITY TO PRODUCE THEIR OWN FOOD USING SUNLIGHT AND THEY PROVIDE THE WORLD WITH MOST OF ITS OXYGEN
IMAGINE IF YOU COULD MAKE YOUR OWN FOOD BY LYING IN THE SUN!
GEE, I'M STUFFED
ALGAES ARE REALLY FLEXIBLE AND RUBBERY — SO RUBBERY THAT ONE SPECIES IS KNOWN AS .....

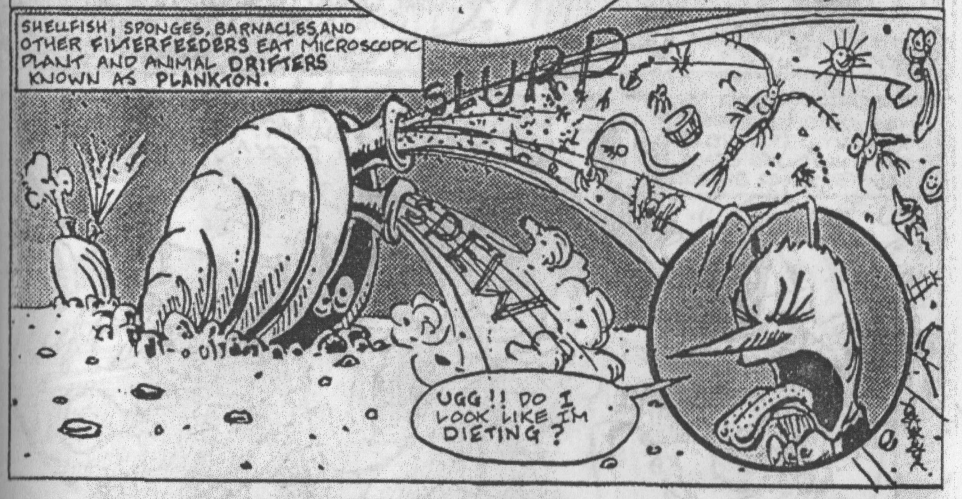

.....
DEADMANS FINGERS
EEEEEEK!
DUH PURDY!

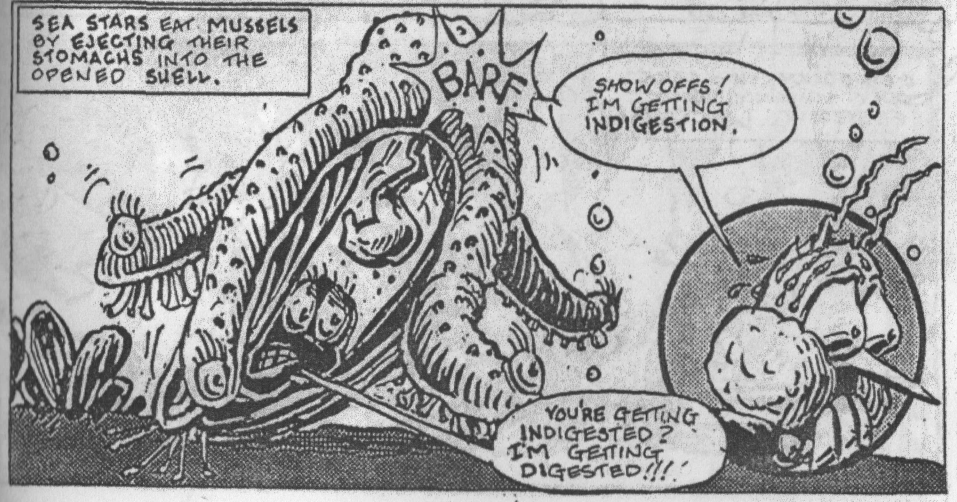

SPEAKING OF THE DEAD, CORALINE ALGAES HAVE A PROTECTIVE LAYER OF CALCIUM CARBONATE — THE SAME STUFF THAT BONES ARE MADE OF !!!
CRUNCH!

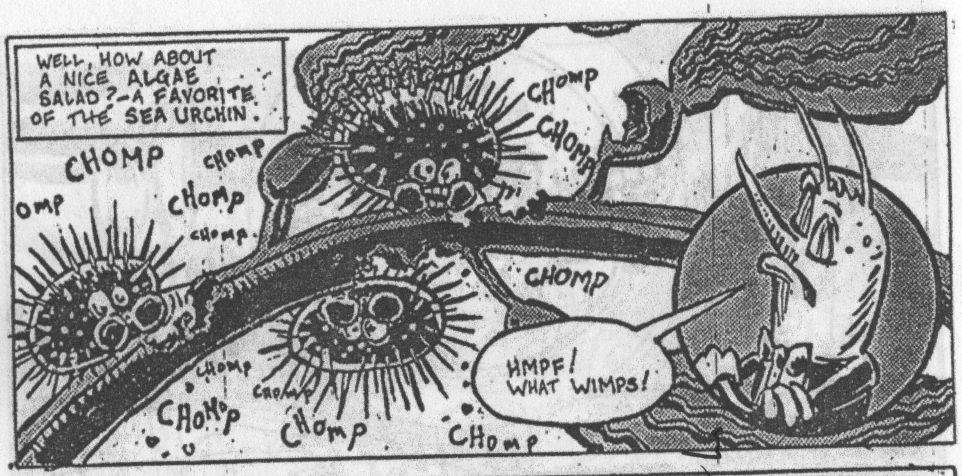

AND TH...?
NOW HOLD IT JUST ONE MINUTE BOB!

YES ROCKY ??..
CAN WE GO ON TO THE FOOD SECTION I'M STARVED!

CERTAINLY ROCKY!...
FEEDING!!

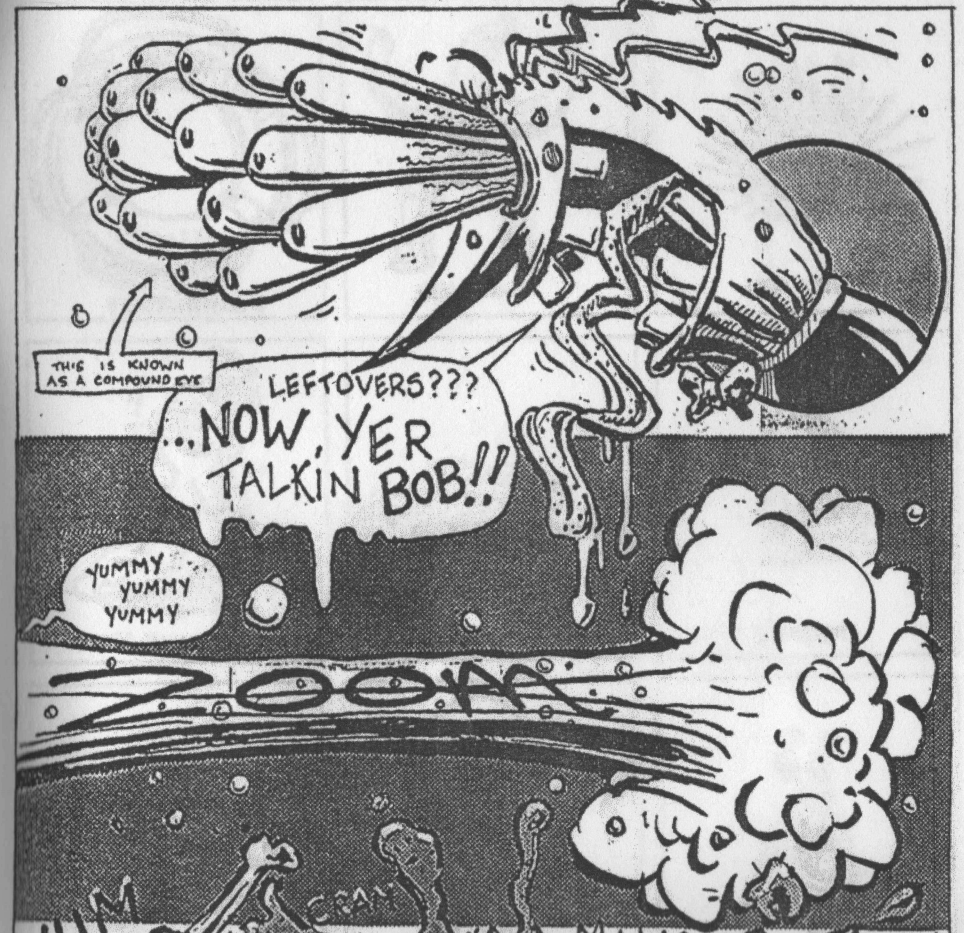

SHELLFISH, SPONGES, BARNACLES AND OTHER FILTERFEEDERS EAT MICROSCOPIC PLANT AND ANIMAL DRIFTERS KNOWN AS PLANKTON.
SLURP
UGG!! DO I LOOK LIKE I'M DIETING?


SEA STARS EAT MUSSELS BY EJECTING THEIR STOMACHS INTO THE OPENED SHELL.
BARF
SHOW OFFS! I'M GETTING INDIGESTION.
YOU'RE GETTING INDIGESTED? I'M GETTING DIGESTED!!!

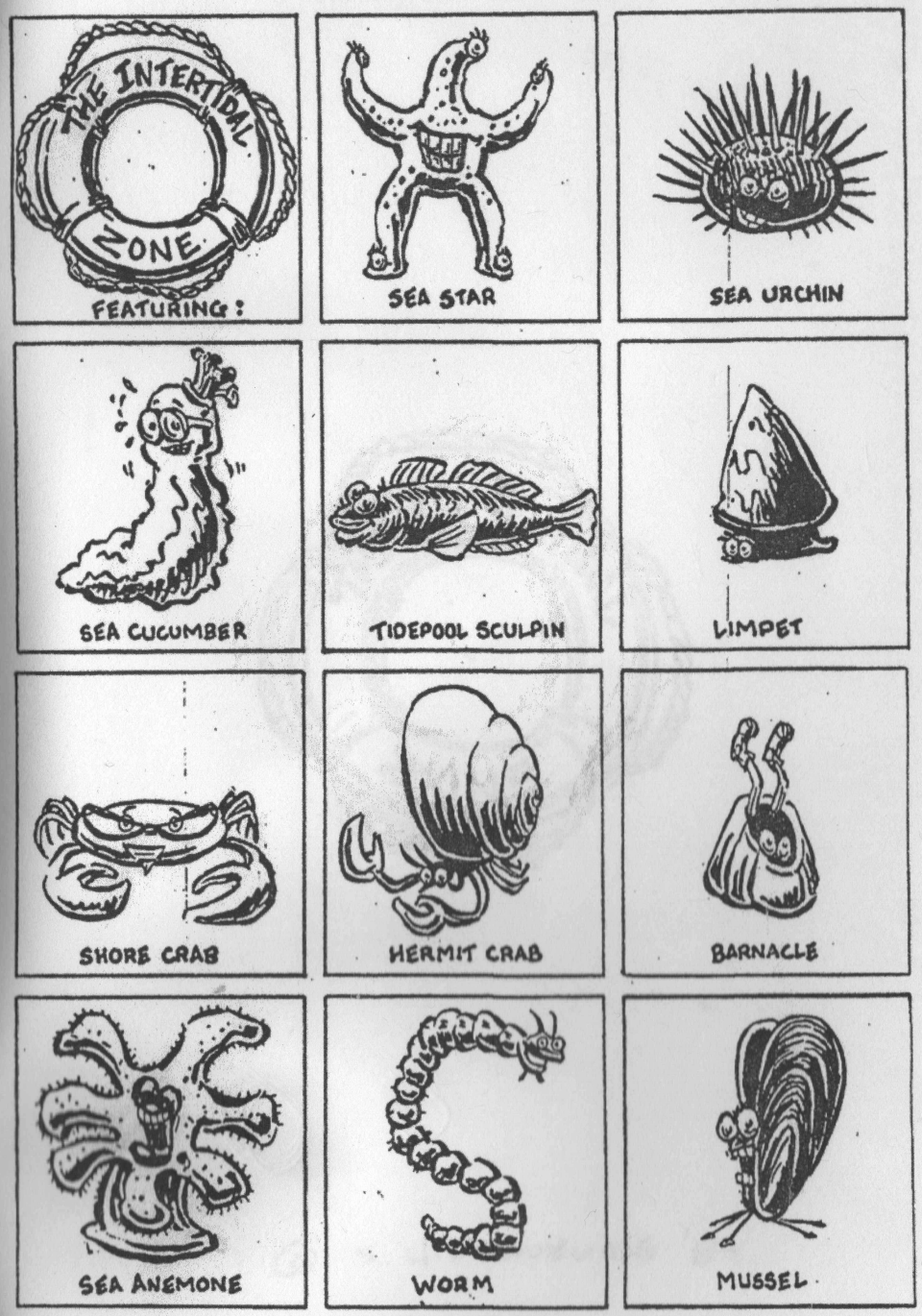

WELL, HOW ABOUT A NICE ALGAE SALAD?—A FAVORITE OF THE SEA URCHIN.
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
HMPF! WHAT WIMPS!

THE OCTOPUS DINES ON MANY HARD SHELLED CREATURES LIKE CRABS, LOBSTERS, AND SHRIMP.
BUTTER
SLURP! HI ROCKY!
THAT'S NOT FUNNY BOB!

GEE ROCKY, THAT LEAVES ONLY STINKING, ROTTING, FESTERING LEFTOVERS!


THIS IS KNOWN AS A COMPOUND EYE
LEFTOVERS???
...NOW, YER TALKIN BOB!!
YUMMY YUMMY YUMMY
ZOOOM

YUM
CRAM
MUNCH
YUM
STUFF
MUNCH
CHEW
MUNCH
CRUNCH
MUNCH
PORK
ROCKY?...ROCK? WELL FOLKS THANKS FOR TUNING IN... THIS CONCLUDES OUR SHOW... THE INTERTIDAL ZONE!
BOB-THE-SPONGE


THE INTERTIDAL ZONE
FEATURING:
SEA STAR
SEA URCHIN
SEA CUCUMBER
TIDEPOOL SCULPIN
LIMPET
SHORE CRAB
HERMIT CRAB
BARNACLE
SEA ANEMONE
WORM
MUSSEL

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